

HONORING NICHOLAS AIELLO FOR HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the members of the Central Labor Council of New Haven, Connecticut as they raise a toast and salute a very special member of Connecticut's labor movement, and my dear friend, Nicholas Aiello. One of the first organizers in the City of New Haven, Nick has long been a strong voice on behalf of working families and is known to many as one of the architects of Connecticut's labor movement.

One of fourteen children, all of whom were garment workers in New Haven's shirt factories, Nick was no stranger to hard work, low pay, and less than ideal working conditions. As Nick recounts in Anthony Riccio's *The Italian Experience in New Haven: Images and Oral Histories*, "When New York got completely organized, the 'runaway shops' came to New Haven. They ran to New Haven where there were no union shops. And they would open up a storefront. They'd put twenty, thirty machines on the fourth floor and most of the stitching plants were on the fourth floor with no elevator. Conditions were horrible . . . Then in the 1930s came the Amalgamated and they started organizing drives in the area." It was with Amalgamated that Nick began as an organizer, taking to the streets of New Haven, rallying workers, and demanding better from industry management. He would go on to become a business agent for Amalgamated and still today remains involved with the Central Labor Council of New Haven. Nick is a pillar of Connecticut's labor movement and has earned the respect and admiration of labor and community leaders alike.

Much has changed from Nick's days in the factories, however, he wanted to make sure that future generations understood the battles that were undertaken to ensure the rights of America's workers. A few years ago, Nick spearheaded the Greater New Haven Labor History Project—an organization whose mission was to collect, preserve, and share the history of working people in the Greater New Haven Area. Nick was determined to see this project succeed and, like in his early organizing days, went door to door to garner support. The response was extraordinary and today its members and staff create traveling exhibits and install them in community venues; preserve and maintain an archival repository of individuals' papers and local union records, documents and artifacts of historical significance; organize public events such as workshops, walking tours, book-signings, film festivals, and talks by esteemed labor historians; offer Records Inventory Services and access by appointment to many of their historical archives; as well as conduct projects such as oral history interviews with retired workers. In addition, the group also presents the August Lewis Troup Award annually to individuals in recognition of their personal contributions to the labor community. None of this would have been possible without Nick's persistence and unyielding determination to see it become a reality and he continues in his efforts by serv-

ing as the President of the Greater New Haven Labor History Project Association.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a personal note of thanks to Nick for his many years of friendship and support. He has been in my corner from the very beginning and even today he still volunteers some of his time in my District Office. I could not be more appreciative of all of his good work on my behalf.

For his many contributions to our community and particularly for his invaluable efforts with the Connecticut labor movement, I am proud to join the members of the Central Labor Council of New Haven in extending my heartfelt thanks to Nicholas Aiello. I extend my very best wishes to Nick and his son, Michael, for many more years of health and happiness.

CONGRATULATING AL AND CHRIS BELILACQUA ON THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE NATIONAL WRESTLING HALL OF FAME

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements of 2012 National Wrestling Hall of Fame inductees Al and Chris Bevilacqua—the first father and son to be so honored in the same year.

For nearly a half century, Al Bevilacqua has worked tirelessly to advance the sport of wrestling as a coach, organizer, mentor, and teacher. Named USA Wrestling's Coach of the Year in 1983, Al has managed successful programs at the high school and college levels, including two years at Division I Hofstra University. Al's greatest contribution to the sport, however, may be his role as co-founder of Beat the Streets, a New York City-based wrestling program that promotes the values of hard work, dedication, and self-discipline among the area's youths. He will receive the Hall of Fame's Order of Merit for his many contributions to the sport.

A two-time All-American at Pennsylvania State University, Chris Bevilacqua has continued his father's legacy of athletic excellence and community involvement. A fixture in the sports media industry, Chris helped found CSTV, the first 24-hour cable network dedicated to college and amateur athletics, which was sold to CBS in 2005. Chris currently serves as CEO of the Bevilacqua Media Company, a strategic advisor to media and entertainment interests. He will receive the Hall's Outstanding American Award.

Al, Chris, and their fellow honorees will be recognized in June during the Hall's induction ceremony in Stillwater, Oklahoma. I congratulate them and join their family and friends in celebrating their many contributions to the wrestling community.

SYNTHETIC DRUG CONTROL ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to clarify my position on H.R. 1254, the Synthetic Drug Control Act.

My vote in support of H.R. 1254 is not without reservations. I support this legislation because the health and safety of our citizens is my primary concern. This legislation will protect our communities, and particularly our youth, from more than forty new and dangerous synthetic drugs. These substances have been the cause of violent incidents and numerous deaths around the nation and it is preferable to immediately list them as Schedule I as opposed to allowing them to continue to be abused in our communities.

Criminalizing these substances, however, will not solve the root problem of drug abuse in our communities. I have serious concerns about the over-criminalization of drugs. Mandatory minimum sentences lead to over-capacity criminal justice and prison systems at significant burden to taxpayers. I have long advocated for a comprehensive approach to drug abuse treatment, including education, prevention, treatment, research, and enforcement. In fact, I have authored legislation to expand accessible treatment, especially for underserved communities, and research into cutting edge treatment therapies. Responsible law enforcement is just the way to address this issue, and it must be executed in conjunction with a robust and multifaceted approach that targets the root of drug abuse problems.

I also have concerns about the impact of penalties in H.R. 1254 on our scientific research processes. While, it is regrettable that H.R. 1254 circumvents the process for listing drugs as laid out in the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), it is necessary in this circumstance. The evidentiary procedure in CSA has worked well for determining the listing of new substances. Unfortunately, it can be time-intensive and the law enforcement community, including the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Department of Justice, supports the immediate listing of these synthetic drugs because of the harm they inflict on our communities. This bill increases the length of time that a new substance can be temporarily scheduled by the DEA, thereby allowing more time for the usual CSA listing process to be carried out.

Throughout my career I have supported scientific research. The study of synthetic drugs is important for understanding their impact on health and their potential beneficial uses. Unfortunately, most of the substances included in this legislation have not been subjected to extensive scientific study, and I am concerned that listing them as Schedule I drugs may inhibit the study of these drugs. While the DEA has a procedure for scientists to study Schedule I controlled substances, it presents greater barriers for scientists to work with these drugs. As of October 4, 2011, the DEA has 325 researchers conducting research with Schedule I controlled substances. These researchers include research centers and universities who seek to better understand the effects of